

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) An umbrella comprising:

a central axis-defining shaft;

a plurality of ribs having inner ends secured to the shaft and outer ends and movable between a closed position extending axially along the shaft and an open position extending radially from the shaft;

a flexible canopy spanned over the ribs;

an actuator movable axially along the shaft;

respective spreaders made of plastic and each having an outer end pivoted on a respective one of the ribs and an inner end pivotal on the actuator, the canopy and the ribs forming in the open position a spring element acting as a damping member that resists inversion and that has a spring strength such that only a sectoral inversion is possible and that it forces an automatic restoration by the damping member when wind pressure drops;

a slide shiftable along one of the ribs adjacent the outer end thereof; and

a brace strut having an outer end pivoted on the slide and an inner end pivoted on the ~~spreadeer~~ spreader between the inner and outer ends thereof, the brace strut being capable of resisting compression and tension, the plastic ribs being of such elasticity that they bend elastically in the open position and a

23 tension of the canopy on the elastically bent ribs and on the brace  
24 struts is such that only a sectoral inversion of the frame with the  
25 canopy is possible and a complete inversion of the canopy is  
26 inhibited circumferentially.

1           16. (currently amended) The umbrella defined in claim  
2 15 wherein a length of each rib between its outer end and its  
3 pivotal connection with the outer end of the respective spreader is  
4 at least equal to a length of the respective brace strut plus a  
5 length of the respective spreader between its pivotal connection  
6 with the respective rib and with the respective brace strut.

1           17. (currently amended) The umbrella defined in claim 15  
2 wherein the umbrella has a plurality of the brace struts  
3 distributed angularly and extending between respective spreaders  
4 and the respective ribs.

18. (canceled)

1           19. (currently amended) The umbrella defined in claim  
2 ~~[[18]]~~ 15 wherein the plastic spreaders are made of plastic and  
3 have a diameter of 2 to 6 mm.

1           20. (currently amended) The umbrella defined in claim  
2   [[18]] 15 wherein the plastic spreaders are made of plastic and  
3   have a diameter 3 to 4 mm.

1           21. (currently amended) The umbrella defined in claim 15  
2   wherein the brace struts are made of plastic.

22 and 23. (canceled)

1           24. (currently amended) The umbrella defined in claim 15  
2   wherein every other spreader has one such brace strut.

1           25. (previously presented) The umbrella defined in claim  
2   15 wherein the slide is formed as a tube engaged around the  
3   respective rib and forming a pivot.

26 - 29. (canceled)